

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): An image forming process, comprising:

fixing a toner image on a recording medium, wherein said fixing comprises:

heating one or more heat-transfer media using a heating element, and

pressing the recording medium bearing the toner image to one of the one or more heat-transfer media using a pressurizing member,

wherein at least one of the one or more heat-transfer media is a belt heat-transfer medium and the surface thereof no oil is applied ~~with oil in an amount of 4 mg or less~~ per A4 size, and

wherein the toner image is formed with a toner which comprises a binder resin and a releasing agent, has D_v of from $3.0\ \mu\text{m}$ to $7.0\ \mu\text{m}$, a particle diameter distribution D_v/D_n of from 1.00 to 1.25, in which D_v is a weight-average particle diameter and D_n is a number-average particle diameter, and an average shape factor SF-1 of from 100 to 150, and contains toner particles having a shape factor SF-1 of 160 or more in an amount of 10% by number or less;

wherein the toner particles have a storage modulus G' and a loss modulus G'' , wherein the storage modulus G' is in the range from $5.5 \times 10^5\ \text{Pa}$ to $5.5 \times 10^7\ \text{Pa}$ at $80^\circ\ \text{C}$ and is in the range from $5.0 \times 10^2\ \text{Pa}$ to $1.0 \times 10^4\ \text{Pa}$ at $180^\circ\ \text{C}$, and a maximum of a loss tangent ($\tan\delta = G''/G'$) is in the range from 1.5 to 8.0 at temperature from $80^\circ\ \text{C}$ to $130^\circ\ \text{C}$;

wherein the releasing agent has a melting point of from 60°C to $120^\circ\ \text{C}$ and is contained in the toner in an amount of from 1% by weight to 20% by weight.

2. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the weight-average particle diameter D_v of the toner is in the range of from 3.0 μm to 5.0 μm .

3. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the particle diameter distribution D_v/D_n of the toner is in the range of from 1.00 to 1.20.

4. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the average shape factor SF-1 of the toner is in the range of from 100 to 130.

5. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein a content of toner having a shape factor SF-1 of 150 or more in the toner is 10% by number or less.

6. (Canceled):

7. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the releasing agent in each toner particle is dispersed in a form of particles, wherein dispersed particles of the releasing agent having a particle diameter of from 0.1 μm to 3 μm occupy 80% by number or more of the total dispersed particles, and wherein the dispersed particles is concentrated in the vicinity of the surface of the toner particle as observed with a transmission electron microscope (TEM).

8. (Canceled):

9. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the binder resin has an acid value of from 1 mg-KOH/g to 50 mg-KOH/g.

10. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the binder resin has a glass transition point of from 40° C to 60° C.

11. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the binder resin comprises a polyester resin containing a tetrahydrofuran-soluble component, the tetrahydrofuran-soluble component has a molecular weight distribution with a main peak at molecular weights of from 2,500 to 10,000 and with a number-average molecular weight of from 2,500 to 50,000.

12. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the toner is a toner which is prepared by: at least one of dissolving and dispersing, in an organic solvent, an isocyanate-containing polyester prepolymer, a compound capable at least one of undergoing elongation and crosslinking with the prepolymer, and at least one toner component to form one of a solution and dispersion; subjecting one of the solution and the dispersion to at least one of a crosslinking reaction and an elongation reaction in an aqueous medium to form a dispersion; and removing the solvent from the dispersion.

13. (Currently Amended): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein said toner image is formed by steps further comprising supplying said toner to a latent electrostatic image formed on a photoconductor and applying an alternating field thereby developing said latent electrostatic image to form said toner image prior to the fixing.

14-29. (Canceled):